

troops to that part of the world. Why not call upon the nations that have influence in that part of the world? That is in their sphere of influence. Where is France? Where is England? France wants to be a superpower. They are setting off tests in the middle of the ocean. Let them bring in their troops and do something rather than talk. It is in their sphere of influence.

The United States, I say, should, at the most, supply air power and have the troops withdrawn. I do not think we should commit troops to that part of the world, even though my colleague, the majority leader from Kansas, has said that there should be U.S. troops supplied to help withdraw the U.N. troops. I do not think I can go that far, Mr. President.

What has gone on there is something that should have the world community saying, "At least let's get the U.N. troops out of there, they are only serving the Serbian forces." I say let us have France and England and the European nations join together and let them bring troops into that area. We have done Somalia; we have done Haiti. Have we not done enough, Mr. President? We have done the gulf war. It is time for the United States to step back and let other countries do their share for a change.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RUBY RIDGE INCIDENT

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I have just received a release from the Federal Bureau of Investigation advising that the FBI Director is transferring Mr. Larry A. Potts from the position of Deputy Director to a position within the FBI's training division.

I have just had an opportunity to discuss this briefly with FBI Director Louis Freeh. I think that this is a very wise move in light of all of the developments on the Ruby Ridge incident, especially the most recent disclosure of this week that documents were destroyed by one of the FBI agents who was involved in the Ruby Ridge incident.

There is a very substantial question, Mr. President, about what was done at Ruby Ridge with respect to the use of deadly force and also with respect to the rules of engagement with Special Agent Glenn, the special agent in charge at the present time of the Salt

Lake City office having been at the scene, saying that there had been changes in the rules of engagement, and Mr. Potts having said that there was no change in the rules of engagement and no change on the use of deadly force.

That is a matter of considerable importance. Also, disclosed in the Washington Post yesterday was the task force report of the Department of Justice, indicating that there was excessive force used within the definition of constitutional parameters, and also with the task force exposure as printed in the Washington Post yesterday about the recommendation for consideration of prosecutions, which was rejected by the Department of Justice.

I have raised the issue of the promotion of Mr. Potts with Attorney General Janet Reno when she testified recently at general oversight hearings before the Judiciary Committee, and had raised the issue as to why Mr. Potts was promoted in light of the outstanding questions about Ruby Ridge. The Attorney General was further questioned about the possibility of a criminal prosecution by the prosecuting attorney of Boundary County, ID, of an official whom I talked to had made comments on the Senate floor some time ago. Attorney General Reno said she would not speculate about what local law enforcement would do and was not going to get involved in any way in hindering local law enforcement which was hardly responsive to my question as to why there was a promotion, in light of these issues which were very much in the public domain.

Mr. President, it is my hope that there will yet be oversight hearings by the Senate. I made an extensive statement about this yesterday, calling for those hearings and, in fact, had pressed the issue in a resolution calling for a Senate vote in May, understanding full well that it was highly unlikely to be accepted, considering the prerogatives of chairmen under our Senate procedures. I think it continues to be a matter of the utmost importance. We have had an enormous growth of the militia, as I commented on more extensively yesterday. I can understand and sympathize with people in the United States who are unhappy with what is going on in Government because of the need to hold people accountable at the highest levels.

I think with the reassignment of Mr. Potts today, it has extra emphasis on the need for hearings. Mr. Potts, for one, is entitled to his day in court or his time to have a hearing to see precisely what it was that he did. There is a cloud hanging over Mr. Potts at this time. There is a cloud hanging over the FBI and a cloud hanging over the Department of Justice, as long as these questions remain unanswered. It is the responsibility of the Congress of the United States to have oversight hearings. We are the proper institution to undertake those hearings, and I renew

my request that these hearings be held at the earliest possible time.

I note that the Presiding Officer, the senior Senator from Idaho nodding. I will not make any interpretation from his nods of the head, but I do think this is a matter of great importance. And the reassignment of Mr. Potts today underscores the necessity for prompt hearings on this important matter.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

#### COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY REFORM ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to ask the managers of the bill a question. I would like to make about a 5-minute statement. If you are in the midst of some procedure here, I am reluctant to interrupt it.

Mr. LEVIN. We are very close, we believe, to working something out on the Hutchison amendment. That is not quite ready. So I have no objection, and I do not believe Senator HATCH would either.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, during consideration of this regulatory reform bill, we have heard a litany of horror stories about silly regulations, costly regulations, and useless regulations. Many of these stories have focused on rules and laws that are designed to protect the environment.

It must be remembered, however, that tales of environmental excess do not present the complete story.

I have spoken many times about the tremendous progress we have made in cleaning up our environment over the past 25 years. I think the last 25 years, starting in about 1970, 1972, those were the glory years of environmental legislation. As a result of that legislation, our Nation is far cleaner in its waters and in the air, and far ahead in the preservation of endangered species than we otherwise would have been. In just about every instance, that progress can be attributed directly to environmental rules and regulations and laws that were passed. Surely, there are examples of overly rigid applications of specific rules. But there is no doubt that the world is a better place today precisely because we have stepped in and forced industry to clean up its act.

In today's Washington Post, on page A3, there is a good news, pro-environmental success story. It is a story about environmental "regulation"—that word that everybody seems to rebel against around here. The headline reads, "A Threat to Ozone Layer Diminishes."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the story from the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.